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Remarks

Claims 1 and 2 that were the subject of the restriction and thus withdrawn from consideration have been amended. In view of the amendments to claims 3-7 applicant request reconsideration of the claimed subject matter in view of the prior art. If the examiner still considers the now claimed subject matter of claims 1 and 2 as being sufficiently distinct from claims 3-7 applicant accepts the decision of the examiner and does not want this response to be considered as non-responsive to the office action.

The specification has been amended to provide a literal description of the specific shape of the sequential arcuate sections that are initially stamped on the circular blank 12 that ultimately is shell 10.

Claims 3-7 have been amended to recited that a flange (26) of shell (10) for the booster is defined by a first plurality of arcuate projections (40,40',...40ⁿ) are sequential separated from the second plurality of arcuate projections (42,42',...42ⁿ) with each of the first plurality of arcuate projections (40,40',...40ⁿ) having a specific shape with substantially parallel axial sides that perpendicularly extend from a radial plane (11) aligned with a base of radial slots (38,38',...38ⁿ) while each of the second plurality of arcuate projections (42,42',...42ⁿ) with first and second radial tabs (44,46) thereon having a length defined by the arcuate length of a radial slot (38) less the width of an axial slot (38). In the process as recited in claim 3, the peripheral surface (204) on shell 30 is inserted into the flange (26) until an edge (206) on the peripheral surface is aligned with the radial plane (11) and a force is only thereafter applied to the first plurality of projection to being the first arcuate projections into engagement with the edge (206) to hold the peripheral surface (204) in alignment with the radial plane and seal a chamber (32) within the booster (100). The arcuate engagement of only the first plurality of arcuate projections (40,40',...40ⁿ) to establish sealing of the booster is different from the prior art wherein some component is bent or deformed to define radial engagement with the front shell, as clearly shown in Boehm where tabs 7 and 8 engage shell 3. In the present invention, the limited arcuate that only occurs in first plurality of arcuate projections (40,40',...40ⁿ) helps to maintain the circular shape of the booster and

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thereby establish the sealed relationship between the front shell (10) and rear shell (30).

Claim 4 further defines the method as including the step of only bending the first plurality of arcuate projections (40,40',...40") to establish a gap (x) between the tabs (44,46) such that a stop (43,45) is established that limits the open end (202) from the radial plane (11). If the opened end (202) never moves with respect to the radial plane (11) tabs (44,46) never engage the edge (206). Clearly this structure to define the gap (x) and function feature is different from the prior art wherein the tabs always radially engage a shell.

Claims 5 and 6 define specific limits for the deformation of the first plurality of arcuate projections and tabs in order to achieve a desired booster.

Claim 7 recited a functional advantage defined by the method wherein the gap is utilized to provide a visual indication of the desired sealing achieved by bending the first plurality of arcuate projections (40,40',...40"). If a gap is present, the booster manufactured by the process is in accordance with the desired sealing relationship. Nowhere in the prior is their a suggestion of such a test to determine compliance with a standard of manufacturing a booster.

New claim 8 has been added to cover the booster defined by the method recited in claim 7.

A new abstract is being submitted in accordance with the current limit of 150 words.

This amendment is being presented to clearly define the invention over the prior art and places this application in condition for allowance.

Should the examiner have any concerns with respect to the amendment, applicant would appreciate a telephone call to discuss such concerns. .

Respectively Submitted
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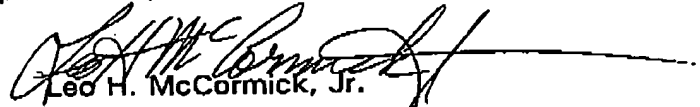


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent by fax to the United States Patent Office on September 2, 2005 to the following No. 571-273-8300.



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